# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion. General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.)

## Contents for Week of February 6, 1939. Vol. XVII. No. 29.

1. Forest Fires Sear Victoria, Smallest Australian Mainland State
2. Vermont, New England Exponent of States' Rights
3. Tea Time in England Is Reckoned in Centuries
4. Sardinia, Coal Source for Fuel-Hungry Italy
5. Two-Mile-High Sikang, China's New Province

*Photograph by Mauricio Fresco from Pix*

**IN JAPAN, TEA FACTORY WORK IS ALMOST A CEREMONY**

**With trays, tea aprons, kimonos, and the kneeling posture of the staid and polite Tea Ceremony, Japanese working girls prepare packages of tea for shipment to many parts of the world. The packing room contains a curious mixture of modern efficiency—the containers being filled by a Japanese copy of an American machine—and of Japanese tradition. Japan's neighbor, Australia, has the highest per capita consumption of tea outside Asia—nearly seven pounds a year. Most Japanese teas are sold in the United States and Canada (Bulletin No. 3).**

**HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS**

**The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers in the United States and its possessions for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (stamps or money order); in Canada, 50 cents. Entered as second-class matter, Jan. 27, 1922, Post Office, Washington, D. C., under act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of Oct. 3, 1917, authorized Feb. 9, 1922.** **Copyright, 1939, by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Quedan reservados todos los derechos.**

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

*Published Weekly by*

**THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)**

**General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.**


## Forest Fires Sear Victoria, Smallest Australian Mainland State

A CHARRED and blackened area of more than a thousand square miles; timber, livestock, and farms destroyed; scores killed, injured, and homeless. Such is the report of desolation wrought by recent fires in the State of Victoria, southeast Australia. Rain finally checked the mad course of the flames.

In Victoria, a region rich in fine timber, mineral wealth, and farm and pasture land, the dread cry of "Fire!" is no novelty. The first chapter in the history of Victoria as an independent colony, around the middle of the 19th century, tells of flaming disaster.

In 1851 a great bush-fire broke out in unsettled tracts of grass and forest lands beyond Melbourne, on the south coast. Following a long dry spell, the conflagration laid waste to much of the State, destroying millions of dollars worth of timber and grazing land.

### "Black Thursday" for Victoria

"Black Thursday" the Victorians call that day when citizens of Melbourne, choking in the smoke and heat, fought to keep the city from falling victim to the showers of embers that fell in the streets.

Another historic fire in Victoria was one which burned the enclosure about a large rabbit warren. Less extensive than the disaster of "Black Thursday," the small blaze nevertheless had consequences felt to this day. Liberated rabbits have cost Australia untold money in property destroyed and in extermination projects.

Today, both in towns and "out back," Victoria has modern fire-fighting machines to check the "red enemy." In the metropolis and capital of Melbourne are nearly 50 fire stations. In the country, bush-fire brigades count their membership in the thousands.

The recent disaster has resulted in plans for still greater precautions against widespread fires, according to news dispatches from the stricken area. For Victoria, like much of Australia, has periodic droughts. Unprotected plains through which flames may sweep, sparsely settled regions, and a dry summer climate when hot winds blow down from the interior are other factors.

### Gold Hunters Filled State

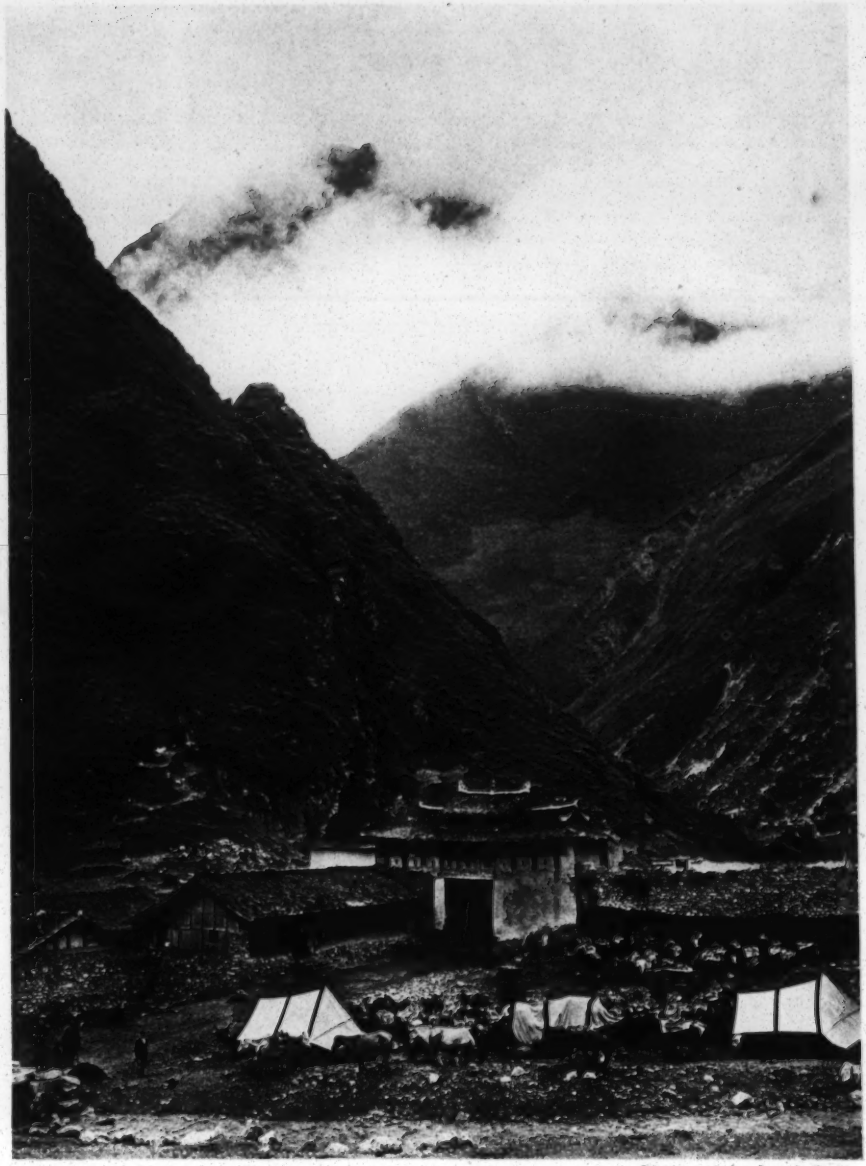
Victoria—the smallest State on the island continent—is the most closely settled part of Australia. This, however, is not much of a record, since the density is only about 20 people to a square mile. France, by way of comparison, has nearly 200. In Victoria, too, as in the rest of Australia, the population is largely concentrated in cities.

Like California, much of Victoria's pioneering settlement resulted from a gold rush. Among Australians flocking to California in '49, was one who saw the resemblance between gold-bearing rock of America and that in his own home. Returning to Australia, he started a rush with discoveries of gold in New South Wales, which led to the opening up of gold country in Victoria.

From Victoria came the "Welcome Stranger" nugget, sold for $50,000. Among other mineral resources, a rich deposit of lignite coal, called the "brown gold" of Victoria, supplies the energy for most of the State's electric power. Aided by widespread irrigation, a vast farming region yields crops of wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and hay.



UMI



*Photograph by Joseph Rock*

**KANGTING IS A KEYHOLE IN CHINA'S DOORWAY TO TIBET**

**Sikang's capital and age-old center for caravans between China and Tibet has grown to be a city of 20,000, squeezed into a gloomy mountain gorge. Two routes to Lhassa begin here. The South Road, through Batang, was the ancient capital-to-capital courier route and Tea Road for caravans carrying bales of brick tea sewn up in yak skin, like the one photographed here outside the north gate of Kangting. The North Road is longer but easier, winding into Tibet through Kanze; it now takes most of the traffic. Outward bound caravans, sometimes 3,000 animals long, take Sikang's musk to Chinese and French perfumers, staghorns for Chinese medicine, wool, sheepskins, gold dust, and furs (Bulletin No. 5).**

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

*Published Weekly by*

**THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)**

**General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.**


## Vermont, New England Exponent of States' Rights

THE Governors of the six New England States, convening in Boston recently, endorsed the stand Vermont has taken on the subject of the proposed flood-control dam recommended by engineers of the U. S. War Department for construction on the Ompompanoosuc River near the midpoint of Vermont's eastern boundary. The dam would cross the river, a small tributary of the important Connecticut, some seventeen miles north of the town of White River Junction.

Vermont has appropriated funds to fight the dam project because Army engineers have not agreed to the formality of transferring land for the site from State to United States control. Without such a contract, the Vermonters maintain, the use of land by national officials would constitute an invasion of States' Rights.

### Fourteen Years An Independent Republic

The leadership of Vermont in this insistence on State sovereignty may spring from a recollection of complete freedom from any bonds of union. As a free-lance Republic it talked to Great Britain on terms of complete equality, flirted with Canada over proposals of a union, fought off land claims of New York and New Hampshire, sparred heatedly with the Continental Congress, and finally joined hands with the other United States only after George Washington had demonstrated to cautious Vermonters for two years that he was a safe and sane President.

Fourteen years of such heady and hard-won freedom are not forgotten in a few generations. It was voiced by Ethan Allen in his threat to Congress: "Rather than fail, I will retire with my hardy Green Mountain Boys to the desolate caverns of the mountains, and wage war with human nature at large." It was still vigorous when Whittier wrote his "Song of the Vermonters":

"We owe no allegiance; we bow to no throne;
Our ruler is law, and the law is our own."

### Vermont Wood Made into Organ Pipes and Buttons

But the struggle that has most tried the Green Mountaineers' sinews and sharpened their wits is the longest and hardest battle in State history—that of Vermonters *versus* Vermont. Most rural of New England States, Vermont has two-thirds of its population in the open country, and farming is threatened with killing frosts any month of the year.

Just as mountains and winter snow have given a special flavor to Sweden, Switzerland, and Scotland, so they are associated in Vermont, too, with independence, endurance, ingenuity, and hard work. New ideas and outside wares cross mountains slowly, and the mountaineer is conservative. True to his type, the self-sustaining Green Mountaineer has learned to make good use of local products.

Vermont wood is shaped into pipes at the pipe-organ factory of Brattleboro, although some pipes are made of zinc. Ferns are gathered from mountain slopes for distant city florists. The wraithlike white birch haunting forests that cover more than half the State's area is bent to humble use as material for button manufacture. Wood pulp for paper is one of the leading industries.

First assistant to the farmer-manufacturer is the sweet maple tree. The little State standing forty-second in size ranks first in production of maple sugar and syrup made from sap much as Indians taught early settlers to make it.

### Morgan Horse Special Vermont Breed

The Jersey cow, however, is the Vermont farmer's best friend today (illustration, next page). In the days when Vermont was the United States' first Wild West, Pilgrims-once-removed migrated here from the older colonies of Massachusetts or Connecticut to try grain farming, then sheep raising.

During the Civil War period, the State's real wealth was a superior strain of merino sheep stocked from pastures of the King of Spain. The Morgan horse, once a noted breed, was developed in Vermont. Modern Green Mountain Boys, instead of forays against their rival New



UMI

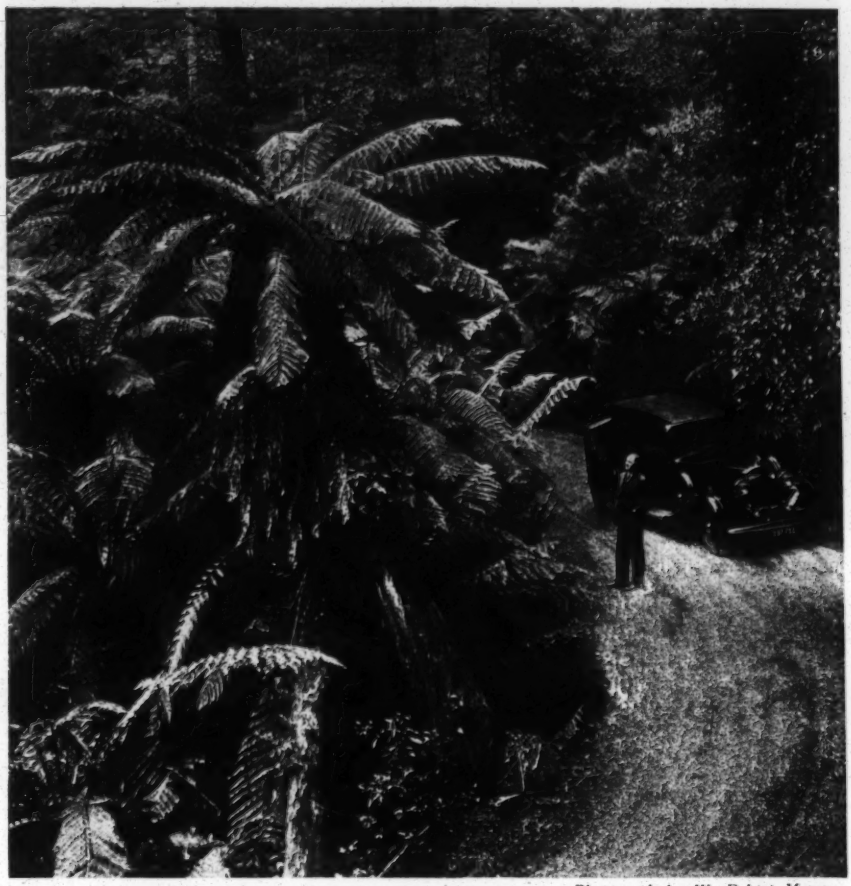
In 1937, Victoria's domestic livestock population was estimated at more than ten times that of humans. The State's chief exports are wool, meat, hides, skins, butter, milk and cream.

Victoria, like most of Australia, has many animal oddities. Besides various kangaroos are such marsupials as Koala ("teddy") bears; pouched mice; "flying squirrels," or gliding 'possums; and an extraordinary creature called the platypus which lays eggs like a turtle, has a furred body, a duck's bill, and webbed feet.

Note: See "Beyond Australia's Cities," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1936; and "Capital Cities of Australia," December, 1935.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Melbourne, Australia, To Have a Man-Made Mountain," week of February 5, 1934.

**Bulletin No. 1, February 6, 1939.**



*Photograph by W. Robert Moore*

**THE EUCALYPTUS TREE TOWERS OVER AUSTRALIA'S DOUBLE-DECKED FOREST**

**Beyond Melbourne the highlands are covered with a two-layer forest, tall eucalyptus trees rising to three or four hundred feet and tree-ferns spreading their fronds nearer the ground. The evergreen eucalyptus is Australia's most useful tree, especially valuable for timber. Tree-ferns that grow luxuriantly in damp and shaded nooks have made Australia famous for its spectacular fern-gullies. In the seclusion of this ferny undergrowth the lyre bird lives. This road winds through the forests of the Dandenong Mountains near Melbourne.**

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

*Published Weekly by*

**THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)**

**General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.**


## Tea Time in England Is Reckoned in Centuries

IN LONDON last month English tea merchants celebrated a century of raising tea within the British Empire. Their observance of this occasion received official attention from the Lord Mayor, and their official gift of select teas in a golden casket was presented to the King and Queen of England.

The occasion showed British respect for tea rather than for novelty, since a century-old industry is not unique in London. Business as usual continues in the original firm that shipped China tea to the American colonies in 1773, to be served in such a startling way at the "Boston Tea Party."

London is World Market No. 1 for the tea trade, importing more than 450,000,000 pounds annually. Every year Englishmen all over the world drink some 97,500,000,000 cups of tea.

### A Steady Distributing Job for Men and Machines

From the vast plantations of the Orient tea is shipped to London port in half-chests and chests weighing up to 90 and 150 pounds. Electric trucks haul it into transit sheds where it is sorted, marked, and rushed to the port's warehouse. Inside the cool, fragrant depths of the warehouse with its eleven acres of floor space, an army of men go to work on it. Each package is weighed, separated, bored and sampled, ready for inspection by the selling broker.

Tea tasters then apply their exacting and delicate art (illustration, next page). Later there is the dramatic scene of the auction room where buyers, seated in tiers in a courtlike chamber, shout their orders. Machinery whirs and buzzes as the tea is blended and packed in modern factories. And, finally, the ride in a delivery wagon—to end, perhaps, in the Anglo-Saxon version of the Oriental "tea ceremony," with a hostess's murmured: "Lemon or cream?"

Firmly established as is the British tea-drinking habit today, it is a taste developed only in recent centuries.

### Samuel Pepys Drinks His First Cup of Tea in 1660

"I did send for a cup of tee, a China drink of which I never had drunk before," wrote Samuel Pepys in his famous diary as late as 1660, showing how new the idea was then in England. Probably the first reference to tea by an Englishman was that in a letter from an East India Company agent who, in 1615, wrote a friend in Macao asking "for a pot of the best sort of *Chaw*" (Chinese *cha,* for tea).

When people in England began to drink tea, it was a rich man's luxury, costing from 6 to 10 Pounds sterling a pound. Because of "its scarceness and dearness," advertised one tea dealer about 1660, "it hath been only used as a regalia in high entertainments, and presents made thereof to princes and grandees."

In the Orient, of course, tea drinking had long been a popular social diversion. Arabian travelers recorded the fact that the Chinese were enjoying the beverage in the 9th century, while some authors claim that tea was known there as far back as 350 B.C.

An ancient Chinese philosopher, the legend goes, was once using twigs from the tea plant as firewood. Into the boiling pot some tea leaves fell, sending up a delicious aroma. The old philosopher was tempted to try the brew; found it stimulating and pleasant—and tea, the beverage, was born.

As mild a concoction as it is—calling to mind the quiet fireside rather than the



UMI

York, lead expeditions into new farming fields, trying out the soy bean and flax as crops to take the place of an earlier century's wheat.

Under the State's glaciated surface its rock ribs were found to cover a heart of gold—or rather, its cash equivalent. The Green Mountains themselves yield asbestos and one-fourth of the talc in the United States. From the Taconic range to the southwest comes one-third of the nation's marble. The country's outstanding granite quarries give the name to the Granite Hills.

## Two Native Sons Reached White House; Another Almost Succeeded

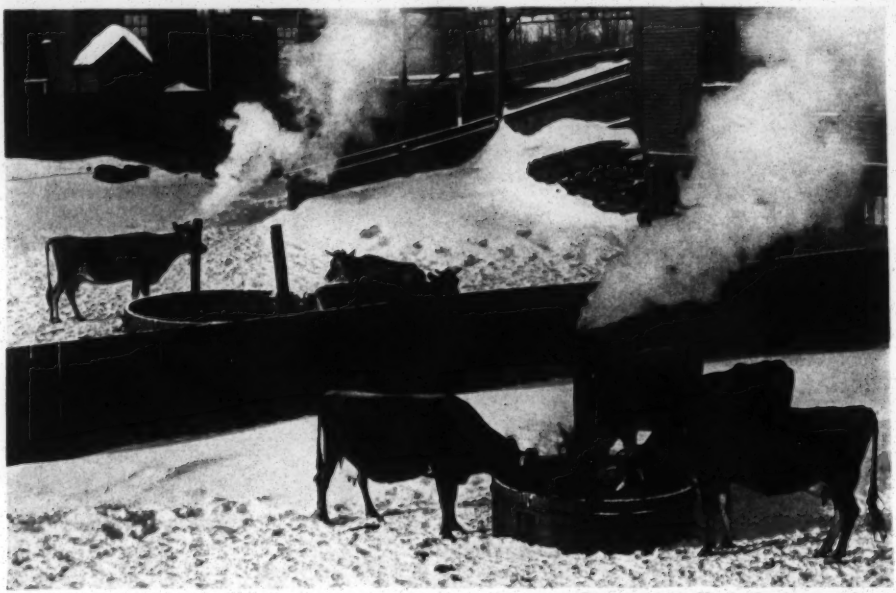
Throughout its history, Vermont's most important export has been native sons whose ambitions outgrew the 155-mile-long State. Two Presidents of the United States and a Vice President head the list—Calvin Coolidge, Chester Arthur, and Levi Morton. Stephen Douglas, too, might have been President except for a dark horse out of the West, a lanky man named Abe Lincoln.

The very ruggedness of the country, always a challenge to natives, has in recent years become a lure to outsiders. They roll along the highways that cut through Vermont valleys to Canada, or pour into century-old villages of postcard-picture quaintness for rustic week-ends. Ski trains make a frolic of the 70-inch snows that once walled in Vermonters for a long dull season of light work and heavy breakfasts. When summer again takes over the earth from snow, Vermont hospitality has a rush season with hillside camps, lakeside dances, and ridgetop trails.

Note: Additional references and photographs about Vermont will be found in "Green Mountain State," *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1927. See also "New England Ski Trails," November, 1936; and "New England's Wonderland of Mountain, Lake, and Seascape" (color insert), September, 1931.

See also in the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS: "Vermont-New Hampshire Boundary Line Is Longest Recently Adjusted," week of April 19, 1937.

**Bulletin No. 2, February 6, 1939.**



*Photograph © H. A. Strohmeyer, Jr.*

**FOR BOSSY'S SUB-ZERO THIRST—A STOVE-HEATED DRINK**

**Best breadwinner on most Vermont farms is the milk-giver, and two-thirds of the State's farmers get much of their cash income from the sale of milk. Vermont valleys serve as troughs to pour milk and cream down into Boston and other New England cities. The State is known for the largest per capita value of dairy products in the U. S. Cattle, so important in farm economy, are star boarders during winter months.**

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

*Published Weekly by*

**THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)**

**General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.**

## Sardinia, Coal Source for Fuel-Hungry Italy

ITALY has a new coal bin from which to draw energy for her developing industrial life, according to cable reports. Extensive coal fields, and a model city of coal miners' homes, were recently opened by Premier Mussolini at Carbonia, Sardinia.

Across the Tyrrhenian Sea from the Italian "boot," shaped roughly in the form of a giant parallelogram more than 9,000 square miles in extent, the island-province of Sardinia is one of Italy's chief mining centers.

In addition to lead, zinc, copper, silver, and other mineral areas, are the new coal districts along the southwest coast of the island. First industrial town to appear in the wake of "black gold" is Carbonia ("Coal City"), where mines are already employing an average of 6,500 workers producing coal at the rate of about 60,000 tons a month.

### Made-to-Order City Hall, School and Theater

Linked by narrow-gauge railway with the near-by port of Sant' Antioco, also being expanded as a result of increased shipping demands, Carbonia is at present a town of some 12,000 inhabitants. Made to order were its city hall, school, hospital, theater, and nearly 400 buildings to house workers, technicians, and local officials.

Its new church is dedicated to the Roman Bishop, San Ponziani, who, exiled to Sardinia more than 1,600 years ago, was forced to work in mines even then being operated there.

Mineral deposits of iron, copper, and silver—plus the fertile soil of its western plains—attracted Phoenician colonists to this island long before the birth of Christ. Later the Romans came, and made Sardinia one of the Mediterranean granaries that fed the Empire's armies and citizenry.

### On Path of Conquest

Its geographic location along the path of Mediterranean exploration and conquest gave Sardinia an important rôle in the continuous drama of war and commerce that followed.

Romans, Goths, Byzantines, Vandals, and Arabs overran Sardinia in successive waves of conquest.

Pisans and Genoese drove out the Saracens and then disputed between themselves for the prize. Spain took over around the end of the 13th century and kept the island until, in 1708, the English fleet captured the port of Cagliari, and turned Sardinia over to Austria.

Later, in return for Sicily, Sardinia was ceded to the dukes of Savoy, who adopted the title of King of Sardinia, eventually exchanged (1861) for King of Italy.

### Italy's Least Populated District

Today, the strategic location of Sardinia brings it more and more into the spotlight of European affairs. About 125 miles west of the nearest point of Italy, it is one of the stepping-stones between Africa and Europe. It is only seven and a half miles south of Corsica.



UMI

hazardous life—tea nevertheless has won and lost fortunes, and affected the destinies of millions.

No era in the history of the fragrant leaf, however, is more stirring than that of the old tea clippers, when these "darlings of the sea" raced each other for the honor—and profit—of bringing to London the season's first shipment of China teas. Competition was always keen for the new teas as they came on the market, as early harvests were considered the best of the year's output. Premiums were paid for the quickest passage home. Bets were laid on the favorite clipper and there was wild excitement in London shipping circles as the time drew near for the rivals' approach.

One of the most spectacular of the clipper races was that of the *Taeping* and the *Ariel* in 1866. Just 99 days out of Foochow, the speedy and graceful ships reached England's shore, within less than a half-hour of each other. Both claimed the victory, the dispute being settled by sharing the prize.

© *Fox Photos*

**FIRST TEA, THEN TASTE, IS CULTIVATED**

**Tea-tasting is a guide to new fragrant blends and to wise purchasing as well. Tasters become so skillful in identifying tea that they can place it as to country and district of origin and even time of picking. In this London warehouse the tasters sip again and again, but rarely swallow.**

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

*Published Weekly by*

**THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY**

**(Founded in 1888 for the Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge)**

**General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.**

## Two-Mile-High Sikang, China's New Province

WITH Japanese armies pushing into China's territory in the east, the country is expanding in the west. The New Year gave China a twenty-eighth province—Sikang—when for the first time a governor was installed over the wild and craggy borderland State between China and Tibet.

Sikang should not be confused with Sinkiang, extreme westernmost dependency of China.

The new province places a million people and some 372,000 square miles of mystery under the authority of the Chinese Republic. Although caravans from Lhassa, Forbidden Sacred City of Tibet, and Peking, Forbidden Imperial City of China, have toiled back and forth across Sikang for centuries, the region is no better known than a building through which one walks down a corridor without looking into any rooms.

### Giant Panda and Musk Deer on Mountainsides

The ancient Tea Road to Tibet winds through Sikang, cutting across thirteen river gorges and scaling snow-clad mountain ranges through passes 15,000 feet high.

The titanic white hulk of Minya Konka, one of the loftiest peaks man has ever scaled, here soars to an elevation of 24,891 feet.

Mountain fastnesses shelter that rare bearlike raccoon, the giant panda, and the amber-haired little musk deer whose "musk pod" is precious caravan freight bound for perfumers in the world beyond. Green and tawny pheasants trail their yard-long tails through mountainside woods, including the 40-inch white-eared pheasant, called "horse chicken" by Chinese.

In the new Chinese province, perched upon the eaves of high Tibet, only 34 per cent of the sparse population is Chinese. Carrying the silk costumes, the Confucian classics and the lacquer rice bowls of the cultured east, they have settled at trading posts along caravan routes. Their neighbors are mainly tall Tibetans—high-booted fleece-coated followers of Lamaism, with their prayer wheels and Buddha images and butter-lamps in gilt-roofed lamaseries. Women are slightly more numerous than men; they work, beg, transport freight, and dance beside the men with a freedom surprising in Asia.

### Mountain Nursemaid for Three Great Rivers' Youth

In June, 1914, a treaty between China and Tibet (with Great Britain participating because of India to the south) divided the Tibetan "Roof of the World" into "Front" Tibet (facing China, of course) and "Rear" Tibet. The former submitted to Chinese rule; the latter remained a dependency with almost complete self rule.

In 1928, Front (or Nearer) Tibet was further divided into two Special Districts, Sikang in the south and Chinghai in the north. Now Sikang's provincial government has been replaced by a regularly appointed governor.

Boundaries of the new province gather into a knot, like a drawstring, the frontier regions of Szechwan, Yunnan, and Tibet. Sikang reaches from the Tung River in the east into the "Land of Deep Corrosions" to the west, where three famous rivers, in a rugged tract not 50 miles wide, run through parallel gorges for



UMI

Moreover, it is located not much more than a hundred miles north of Tunisia, both of which French possessions have been lately in news headlines as Italian objectives.

In 1936, the population of Sardinia was counted at little more than a million persons. Because of harsh climate and rugged surface, it is the least densely settled of Italian departments.

### Climate More Extreme Than That of Mainland

Generally mountainous, Sardinia turns a granite back to the mother country on the east. In the west are volcanic uplands. The island has few rivers. These shrivel in dry seasons and swell to torrents with prolonged rains. More extreme than on the mainland, the climate is remembered by visitors for its hot, dry summers and raw, wet winters.

Both man and beast of Sardinia are small in stature. Unusually tiny are the local donkeys, as well as native Sardinian cattle. The very character of the islanders, stern and uncompromising, is often laid to their harsh, rocky surroundings, which have served as a wall not only against outside influences, but against the transfer of language and customs from one side of the big rocky island to the other.

Note: See "Where the Sard Holds Sway," *National Geographic Magazine*, April, 1926; "Island of Sardinia and Its People," January, 1923; and "Little-Known Sardinia," August, 1916.

**Bulletin No. 4, February 6, 1939.**

*Photograph by C. W. Wright*

**HAND-LOOMS GAVE SARDINIA ITS HEIRLOOM COSTUMES**

**Durable woolens that went into the making of generous skirts for valuable hand-me-down dresses were woven usually by the original wearer. The clumsy hand-hewn loom stood in the cobbled courtyard of the home, and sheep, from which the wool was clipped, were frequently grazing on hillsides within the weaver's view. The Sardinian costume for women includes a bright apron over a dark skirt, a narrow vest, and a short bright jacket with long sleeves split to reveal a fluffy white blouse. No costume is complete without a kerchief tied under the chin, or a long lace or brocade shawl that reaches to the waist.**

over 125 miles before fanning out across all of southeast Asia. The Mekong goes to French Indo-China, and the Salween pours through Burma past "the old Moulmein pagoda." Mightiest of all, the Yangtze winds through the entire breadth of China to empty near Shanghai.

### One of World's Highest Inhabited Regions

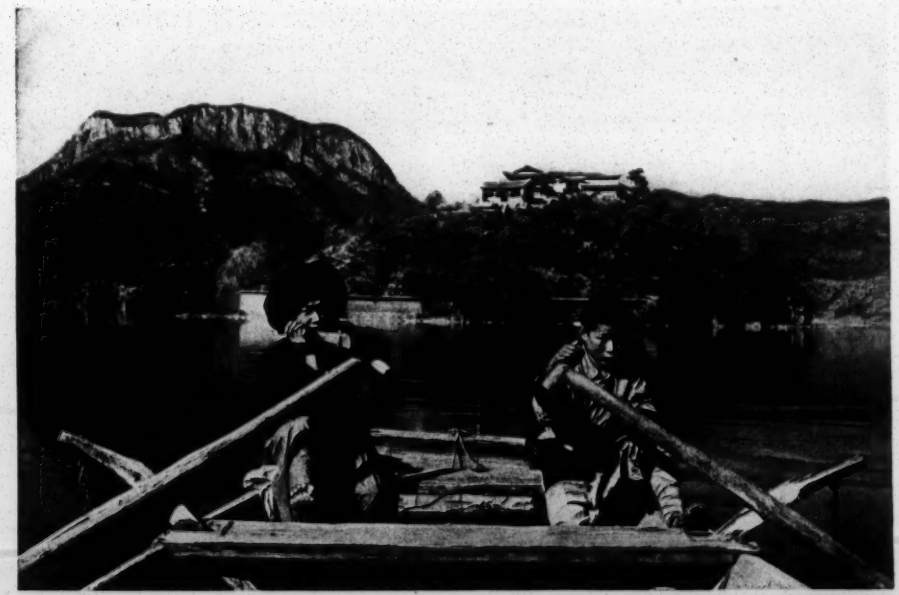
Windswept passes open from China into Sikang over lofty doorsills averaging 12,800 feet high. Peaks over 25,000 feet are not rare. Except in the big river valleys, the province scarcely dips below a "floor" two miles above sea level. It is one of the highest inhabited regions on earth.

The capital, near the eastern border, is the old caravan center of Tatsienlu under the new name of Kangting. Its old title dates from the Han Dynasty in China, and signifies "Furnace for Making Arrows." Today's city of some 20,000 is a hub for five caravan routes, one a highway from Chungking, the new wartime capital of China. Kangting is having a taste of electricity, generated with equipment brought in by caravan (illustration, inside cover).

Crops raised on the rich valley floors give Sikang a varied diet—lettuce, grapes, a local olive, pumpkins, spinach, eggplant. Barley is the chief grain, taking the rôle played by rice in eastern China. The yak is a good provider, supplying milk, butter, some cheese, and finally meat.

Note: China's new Province, Sikang, and adjoining territory are described in "Glories of the Minya Konka," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1930; "Life Among the Lamas of Choni," November, 1928; "Through the Great River Trenches of Asia," August, 1926; and "Land of the Yellow Lama," April, 1925.

**Bulletin No. 5, February 6, 1939.**



*Photograph by Joseph Rock*

**LITTLE FERRYMEN ARE "BIG BUSINESS MEN" IN A BRIDGELESS LAND**

**Sikang's mountains are conquered by lofty snow-threatened passes, but rivers must be crossed by slings hanging from rope pulleys, by floating on inflated goatskins, or by rude ferries. The only bridge of any size is on the eastern border at Lutingchiao, "Town of the Iron Chain Bridge." This 300-foot catwalk of iron chain and wooden planks over the Tung River is perhaps two centuries old. These ferrymen on Younging Lake show that the non-Chinese people of Sikang combine the characteristics of Mongols to the north and Burmese to the south. The scenery suggests the Shangri La of James Hilton's novel, "Lost Horizon."**

UMI